



TN167

PATENT

#12/c
GWL
6/18/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): John A. Helgenberger et al. : Art Unit: 3677
Serial No.: 09/443,233 : Examiner: Gary Wayne Estremsky
Filed: November 18, 1999 :
For: LATCHING SYSTEM :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

JUN 05 2003

GROUP 3600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

The applicants request entry of the following amendment prior to examination.

Please replace claims 1, 14, 22, 23, 24, and 25 with the following amended claims.

- SUBJ*
- C1*
- 1 1. (Twice Amended) A system for providing releasable engagement between two structures, said system comprising:
 - 2
 - 3 a stud extending outwardly from a first one of said structures along an axis,
 - 4 said stud having an outer surface oriented at an angle to said axis to define an outer
 - 5 diameter along at least an end portion of said stud; and
 - 6
 - 7 a resilient member secured adjacent a surface of a second one of said
 - 8 structures, said resilient member having a substantially torroidal configuration
 - 9 defining an opening, said opening having a relaxed state smaller than said outer
 - 10 diameter of said end portion of said stud;
 - 11
 - 12 wherein said opening of said resilient member is configured to resiliently
 - 13 contact said stud to expand radially outwardly to permit passage of said end portion
 - 14 of said stud upon application of a force parallel to said axis;